

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1

January 25, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists from adopting any rule that incorporates by reference a national association's code of ethics. Exempts counselors from counseling a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflicts with the counselor's sincerely held beliefs; provided they coordinate a referral and the client is not in imminent danger of harming themselves or others.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), the proposed legislation could potentially allow any Regional Mental Health Institute employee or any employee of agencies contracted to provide substance abuse addiction recovery services or substance abuse prevention services the right to refuse to provide counseling or therapy services.
- In such instances, it is the counselor's or therapist's responsibility to coordinate a referral to another counselor or therapist.
- Any fiscal impact to DMHSAS to ensure compliance with the proposed legislation would be not significant.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Health, any changes to the current rules of the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists can be done within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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